MATURE

BAD BUG

CALAMIA • FALCO • SOUZA • LOCUST • MACLEOD

#1

THE MISADVENTURES OF BOMBSHELL & ATOMICA

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01

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BAD BUG

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I WISH FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT HAD LIVED TO SEE THIS DAY...

...GENERAL EISENHOWER INFORMS ME THAT THE FORCES OF GERMANY HAVE SURRENDERED TO THE UNITED NATIONS...

BANG! BANG! BANG!

CLICK

WE WON...

HOORAH.

IT'S STUPID...

...BUT I'M GOING TO MISS THIS PLACE.

THE EARLY HOURS, THE GREASE STAINS...

...YOU.

OUR FRIEND-SHIP.

WHO SAYS WE HAVE TO LEAVE? I'LL PITCH A TENT, AND WE'LL START A NEW LIFE TOGETHER.

THEY'RE NOT GOING TO KEEP US EMPLOYED.

WE WERE A BAND-AID. WE HELD THE COUNTRY TOGETHER UNTIL THE MEN GOT BACK, AND THE REALITY IS...THEY'RE COMING HOME.

NOT UNTIL TOMORROW.

WE STILL HAVE ALL NIGHT TO FANTASIZE WHAT OUR LIVES COULD HAVE BEEN.

IT'S HARD TO PRETEND WHEN IT WAS ONCE A REALITY.

THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A VICTORY.

5 YEARS LATER.

SUBURBIA.

ARE YOU TIRED OF THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF CITY LIFE?

DID YOU HEAR?

"FIND A HOME WITH SPACE, A COMMUNITY FILLED WITH LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE..."

WE HAVE NEW NEIGHBORS.

...AND EVEN A WHITE PICKET FENCE.

THAT'S SPLENDID!

I CAN MAKE A PIE!

AND YOU CAN JUST--ZAP IT, RIGHT?

BRANT! DON'T EVEN JOKE ABOUT...THAT.

THAT'S NOT YOUR JOB, SILLY.

BUT A PIE *IS* A GOOD IDEA.

IT'S TRULY THE AMERICAN DREAM.

I CAN OPEN MY OWN DOOR.

SOLD

I'M CERTAIN YOU CAN.

IT WAS A ROMANTIC GESTURE.

I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST...

SHH...IT'S OKAY. NO ONE IS GOING TO FIND OUT.

WE'RE GOING TO START A NEW LIFE, AND LEAVE ALL OF THAT BEHIND US.

ARE YOU ASHAMED OF ME?

OF COURSE NOT! I LOVE YOU...

...BUT THE WORLD WON'T BE AS UNDER-STANDING.

VERONICA!

...BETTY?

YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?

BACK AT THE FACTORY, WE WERE... PARTNERS.

CO-WORKERS.

IT WAS A LIFETIME AGO.

AND AREN'T WE THANKFUL?

THE WAR... THOSE WERE HARD TIMES.

GENERAL VICTOR VALE. DID YOU SERVE?

I DID, BUT I DIDN'T COME HOME WITH ANY FANCY TITLES. SO YOU CAN JUST CALL ME BRANT.

NICE TO MEET YOU, BRANT.

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...

...I DON'T EVEN GET A HUG?

IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA.

WE DON'T WANT A REPEAT OF WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME.

BUT WHAT IF I DO?

I'VE MISSED YOU.

IT'S GETTING LATE.

I REALLY SHOULD START PREPARING DINNER FOR BRANT.

IT'S MEATLOAF NIGHT, AND YOU KNOW HOW LONG THAT CAN TAKE.

BETTY, *WAIT!*

ZZRAK

5 YEARS AGO.

CONFIDENTIAL

THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A VICTORY.

HOW ABOUT NOW?

BOOOM!

OH MY GOD!

OH MY... SHIT!

BETTY, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

HOW?!

HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WE'RE ACTUALLY...

...FALLING?!

CAN THAT HAPPEN IF WE CAN *FLY?*

PLANES CRASH!

SO I'M GUESSING PEOPLE CAN TOO.

TZZ

TZZ

ZZAAT!

BOOMM!

FUCK.

IT HAPPENED AGAIN.

HOUSE. NOW!

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE DIFFICULT, VERONICA.

YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF PEOPLE SEE YOU.

GUNK!

AFTER ALL THIS PLANNING, HOW COULD YOU BE SO CARELESS?

SLAM!

COVER YOUR-SELF UP.

YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN. *NOBODY* SAW ANYTHING.

THE BUCHANANS DID, BUT THEY SEEM WRAPPED UP IN ALL OF THIS!

THEY WON'T SAY ANYTHING.

HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THAT? YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THIS WOMAN IN *YEARS.*

WE BOTH KNOW HOW UNCLE SAM HANDLES THREATS TO THE NATION.

YOU NEED TO DO *BETTER.*

AND YOU *CAN'T* SEE THAT WOMAN AGAIN.

I KNOW...

KNOCK! KNOCK!

I BROUGHT TEA.

CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE?

SHE WAS AT THE FACTORY WHEN THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED. WHEN I GOT MY POWERS.

YOU ALWAYS SAID YOU WERE ALONE THAT NIGHT.

WE WERE NEVER SUPPOSED TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

AND THAT'S ALL? SHE WAS *JUST* A COWORKER?

NOTHING ELSE TO THE STORY?

WHAT ELSE WOULD SHE BE?

I THINK THIS MIGHT BE SOMETHING WORTH EXPLORING ABOUT YOURSELF...YOUR POWERS.

ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU HAVE SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT WHO IS GOING THROUGH THE SAME THING.

THERE'S NOTHING TO EXPLORE. I HAVE A GREAT LIFE. WITH *YOU.*

I DON'T WANT YOU TO LIVE IN HIDING.

THERE'S NOTHING TO HIDE.

I COULD FIX IT MYSELF, YOU KNOW.

SURE, VICTOR. BUT I WAS HOPING TO DRIVE THE CAR *TODAY.*

OH.

BLAM!

HAVE A NICE DAY...

YOU TOO...

EASY DOES IT.

OH, YES.

YOU LIKE THAT, DON'T YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU--

FOR GOD'S SAKE, VICTOR.

CAN YOU SHUT UP FOR JUST FIVE MINUTES?

THE GARBAGE IS OUT, AND THE TIP FOR THE MILKMAN IS ON THE FRONT TABLE.

CAN YOU REMIND ME TO PICK UP MORE EGGS AFTER WORK TOMORROW?

MMM-HMM.

GOOD NIGHT...

BETTY...?

WHAT ON *EARTH* ARE YOU DOING?

I'M CONFUSED, BETTY. WE DON'T DO...

...THIS.

I KNOW. BUT I THOUGHT...

...WE COULD TRY TO START A FAMILY.

BETTY, I...

I CAN'T. I'M SORRY.

AAAAND FINISHED.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CHANGE INTO SOMETHING MORE... APPROPRIATE.

NOTHING I PICK COULD BE MORE "APPROPRIATE" THAN *YOUR* COSTUME.

I JUST WANT YOU TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION WHEN YOU MEET THE NEIGHBORS.

WE CAN'T GIVE ANYONE REASON TO SUSPECT SOMETHING ABOUT YOU IS...DIFFERENT.

IT'S A PARTY, VICTOR. CAN WE JUST TRY TO HAVE A NICE TIME?

HOW ABOUT YOU GO GET ME A DRINK?

FINE.

WOMEN...

NICE COSTUME.
I COULD SAY THE SAME FOR YOU.
DIDN'T THINK THERE WOULD BE *TWO* SUPER-MODELS AT THE PARTY.
I WAS GOING FOR SUPER-*HERO.*
SAME DIFFERENCE, I SUPPOSE.
I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE BREAKING OUR "VOW OF SILENCE".
I, BETTY BOMB-SHELL, HAVE NO IDEA WHAT VOW YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
YOU MIGHT BE THINKING OF BETTY BUCHANAN DOWN THE STREET. SHE'S A REAL STICKLER FOR RULES.
I, VERONICA ATOMICA, AM HAPPY TO SEE THAT.
IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, IS IT SO WRONG FOR TWO NEIGHBORS TO TALK TO ONE ANOTHER?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE BREAKING ANY RULES BEING NEIGHBORLY.
TWO... *PLATONIC* NEIGHBOR FRIENDS.
YEAH... *PLATONIC.*

RMMMMBLRMMMBLRMMMBL

WHAT THE--?!

EARTHQUAKE!

RMMMMBL

KZZT

DID ANYBODY SEE?

I DON'T THINK SO.

VERONICA!

ARE YOU OKAY?

I THINK SO.

EVERYBODY! LISTEN!

--A MISSILE STRIKE HITTING VARIOUS RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES ALONG UPSTATE NEW YORK.

LOOK OUTSIDE!

OH MY GOD!

PROTECT YOUR WIVES AND CHILDREN!

GET TO YOUR BOMB SHELTERS!

NO, NO, NO... THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.

THE WAR IS OVER.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SAFE HERE.

GET UP, VICTOR! YOU'RE A *SOLDIER!*

AND PEOPLE NEED HELP!

NO, NO, NO.

FORGET IT.

YOU SHOULD GO.

WHAT?

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE.

USE YOUR POWERS TO HELP PEOPLE!

NO MORE HIDING.

OKAY.

WHOOSH!

OH, THANK YOU. *THANK YOU!*

MY GOD...

HELP ME!

...A REAL SUPERHERO!

IN HERE!

GRAB THE KID!

HURRY! I CAN'T HOLD IT MUCH LONGER!

KKKRRKK

YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

VERONICA!

TZOT

TZOT

ZZRAK

5 YEARS AGO.

WHAT THE *FUCK* JUST HAPPENED?

I DON'T KNOW.

ONE MINUTE WE WERE IN THE FACTORY, AND NOW...

...WE CAN FLY.

AND MY HANDS SHOT THESE--

TZOT

KZZT

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO US?

"WE CAN'T DO... WHATEVER *THIS* IS."

THE WAR IS OVER.

THE TIME WHEN WE CAN BE...WHATEVER WE WANT TO BE...

...IT'S OVER TOO.

"YOU'RE RIGHT.

"WE CAN'T SEE EACH OTHER ANYMORE."

THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO GO BACK TO NORMAL.

OUR HUSBANDS WILL BE BACK SOON.

"WE'LL NEED TO BE GOOD WIVES...GOOD WOMEN."

"IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES SENSE."

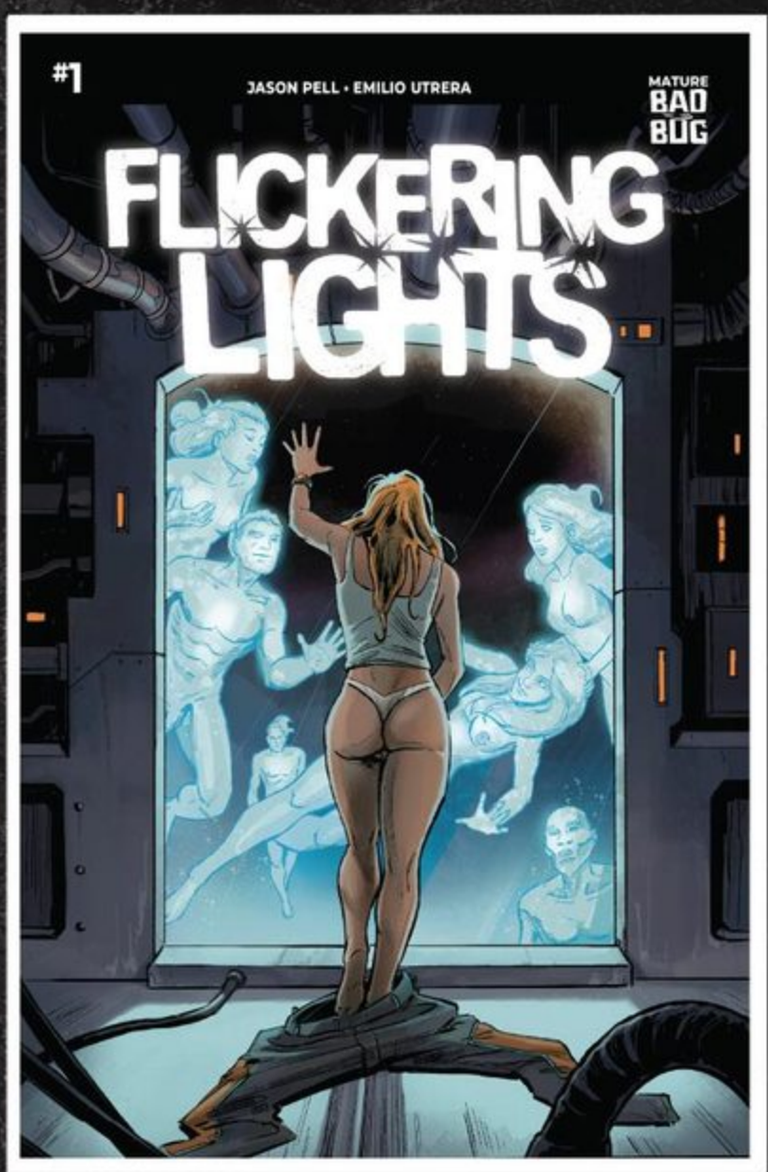
JF SOUZA 2024

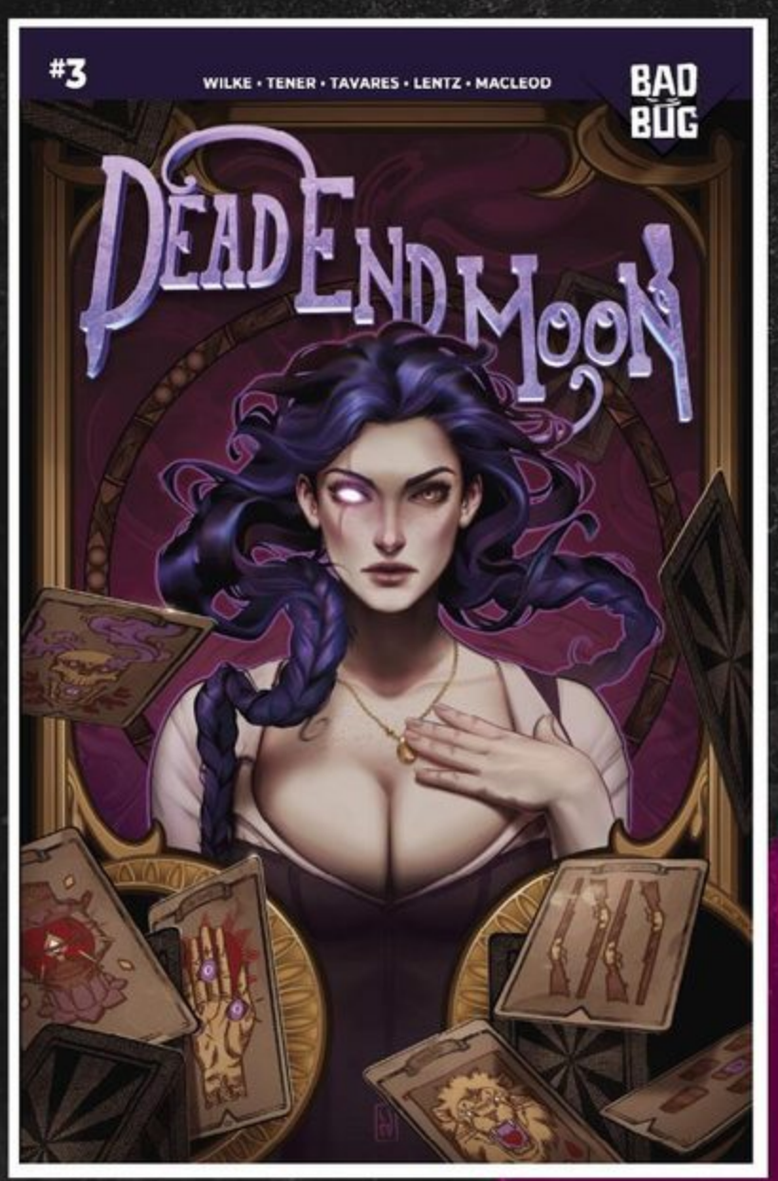
TO BE CONTINUED...

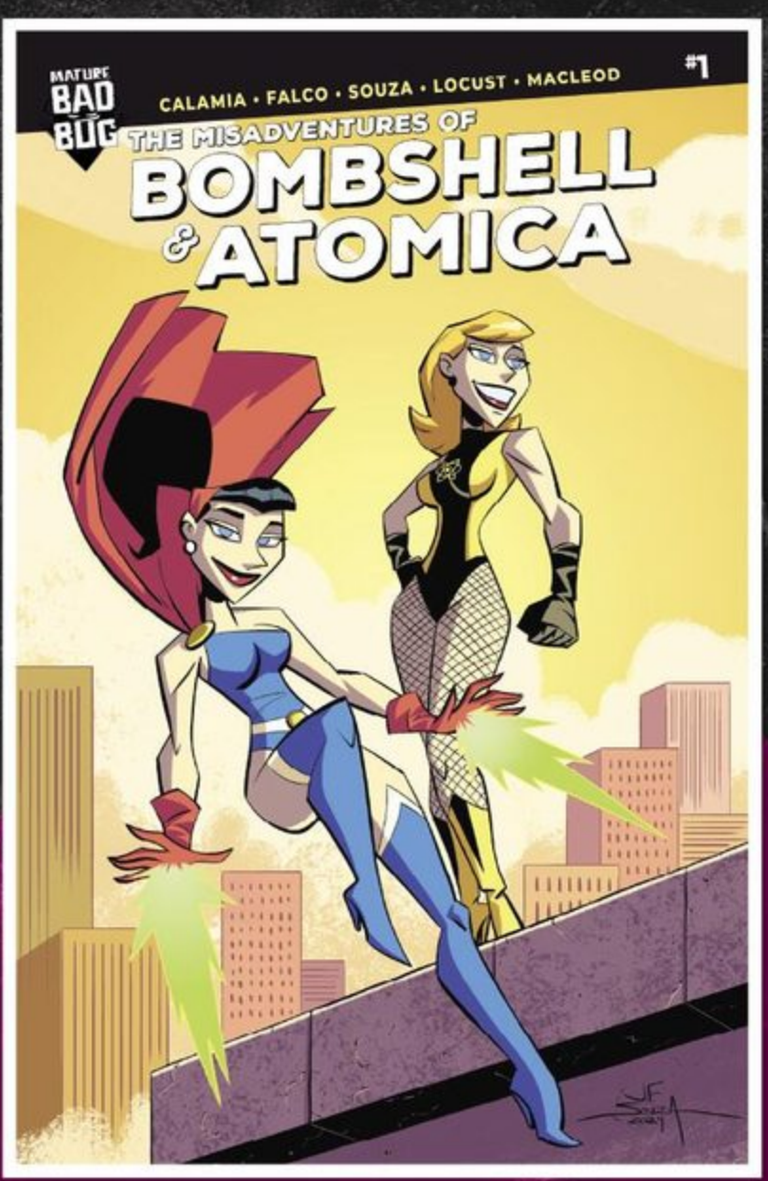
BAD BUG

FOR A GOOD TIME, GO TO

WWW.BADBUGMEDIA.COM

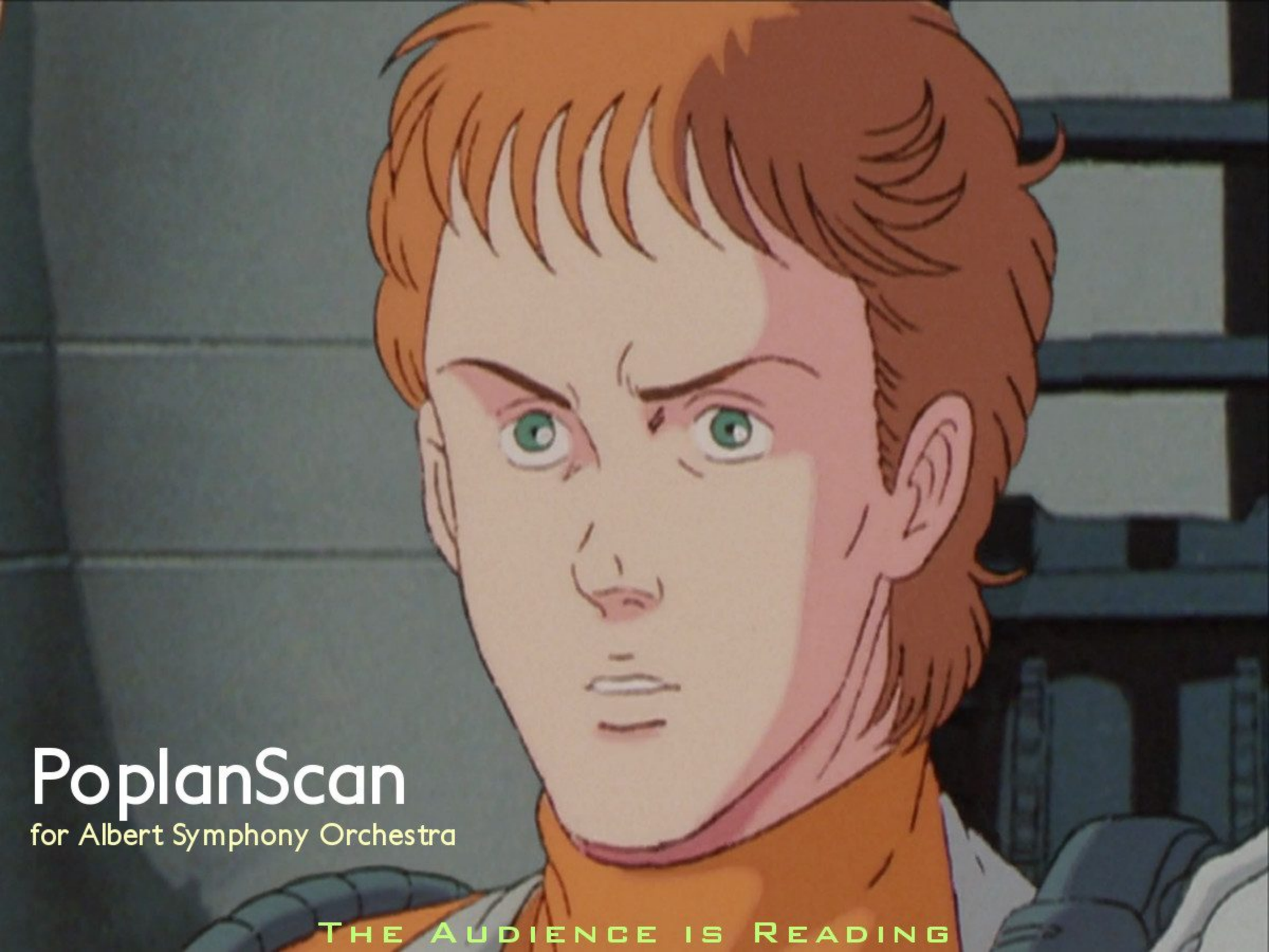






BAD BUG MIDNIGHT

THE NEW HOME FOR ALL EROTIC CONTENT.
COMING SOON.


PoplanScan
for Albert Symphony Orchestra
The Audience is Reading